

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicants cancel claims 1-36 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. Applicants have added new claims 37-81.

I. Objection To Specification

The Examiner objected to the specification. This Amendment includes amendments to the specification that address the issues raised by the Examiner.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 112 Indefiniteness Rejection of Claims

The Examiner rejected claims 1-36 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. This Amendment includes amendments to the claims that correct the issues raised by the Examiner. In light of the amendments, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims

Claims 1, 4, 6-8, 10, 13, 15-17, 19, 22, 24-26, 28, 31, and 33-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,470,344 ("Kothuri et al.") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,208,997 ("Sigeti et al.").

Claims 2, 9, 11, 18, 20, 27, 29, and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kothuri et al. in view of Sigeti et al. and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0023113 ("Hsing et al.").

Claims 3, 12, 21, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kothuri et al. in view of Sigeti et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,662,400 ("Geil").

Claims 5, 14, 23, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kothuri et al. in view of Sigeti et al. and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0178437 ("Blais et al.").

This Amendment responds to the Examiner's rejections by canceling claims 1-36 and adding new claims 37-81. Claims 37-81 are patentable in view of the state of the art disclosed by the references cited by the Examiner at least because the state of the art disclosed by the references does not teach or suggest "determining if a node is present in only one tree."

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the new claims. Applicants submit that the proposed new claims 37-81 do not raise new issues. Applicants submit that all claims are allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully request early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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